

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated December 12, 2008. For the following reasons this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. New claims 26 and 27 are supported by the specification at paragraph [0041].

Claims 1, 4-9, 16-22, and 25-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4-9, 16-22, and 25 have been rejected. Claims 2, 3, 10-15, 23, and 24 were previously canceled. Claims 26 and 27 are newly added.

***Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103***

Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 16-22, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, as obvious over Delnick (US 5,948,464), as evidenced by Walls et al. (*Fumed Silica-Based Composite Polymer Electrolytes: Synthesis, Rheology, and Electrochemistry*). The Office Action averred that Delnick discloses a separator comprising a silica filler and a polymer binder. The separator comprises indefinite-shape particles comprising shapes of dendrites, grape clusters, or coral. The Office Action asserted that Walls et al. disclose that fumed silica consists of fused silica particles. The Office Action further noted that Koike discloses that the particle size of fine particles is preferably from 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , thus the primary particle would not be more than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

This rejection is traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested.

Initially, it is noted that Koike is not cited in the statement of the rejection. It is believed that the Examiner intended to make the rejection over Delnick as evidenced by Walls **and Koike**. The Examiner is respectfully requested to clarify the grounds of this rejection.



Delnick, as evidenced by Walls and Koike, do not disclose or suggest the “neck is formed between at least a pair of said single crystalline particles, said neck comprising the same material as said single crystalline particles.” A dictionary definition of “neck” is attached to this response. A neck is defined as “. . . 5. any narrow, connecting, or projecting part suggesting the neck of an animal.” RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER’S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY, 2D ED., p. 1284. In view of the definition of “neck” it is clear that agglomeration of particles or crosslinking through carbon bonds on the surface of the particles would not form a neck, wherein the neck comprises the same material as the single crystal particles, as required by claim 1. In the case of agglomeration, no neck would be formed.

As regards independent claim 16, the fumed silica does not comprise a plurality of single crystalline particles that are diffusion bonded to each other and a neck formed between at least a pair of the single crystalline particles, the neck comprising the same material as the single crystalline particles, as required by claim 16. US Patent No. 6,084,767 to Day and US Patent No. 5,965,299 to Khan et al. provide support for Applicants’ position. Fumed silica is usually an agglomerate of spherical superfine particles produced when silane gas ( $\text{SiH}_4$ ) is oxidized or silicon in a gaseous state is oxidized in an arc flame. Day discloses (column 2, lines 42-45) that fumed silica is an agglomeration of small spheroids of about 12 to 13 nanometers in diameter. In other words, fumed silica is an agglomerate of spherical fine particles and has **no neck** formed between a pair of single crystal particles. Furthermore, it is evident in Khan et al. (Figs. 2 and 3) that fumed silica is not in the form of dendritic polycrystalline particles having a neck formed between a pair of single crystal particles. For example, in Fig. 3 of Khan et al., the particles are agglomerated through cross-linking of the functional groups ( $\text{C}=\text{C}$ ) on the surface of the particles instead of necks. In the case of cross-linking, even if a neck is formed, and there is no indication



that a neck is formed, the neck would not be of the same material as the single crystalline particles. Furthermore, as explained on page 9 the response filed June 18, 2008, diffusion bonding has an art recognized definition:

Diffusion bonding of materials in the solid state is a process for making a monolithic joint through the formation of bonds at atomic level, as a result of closure of the mating surfaces due to the local plastic deformation at elevated temperature which aids interdiffusion at the surface layers of the materials being joined.

Clearly the cited prior art does not disclose or suggest “diffusion bonded,” as required by claim 16.

It is further submitted that even if fumed silica were to have a “neck” formed between a pair of single crystal particles, and Applicants maintain it does not, it would not have been obvious to select such fumed silica having a neck instead of normal silica having no neck.

The factual determination of lack of novelty under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires the disclosure in a single reference of each element of a claimed invention. *Helifix Ltd. v. Blok-Lok Ltd.*, 208 F.3d 1339, 54 USPQ2d 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2000); *Electro Medical Systems S.A. v. Cooper Life Sciences, Inc.*, 34 F.3d 1048, 32 USPQ2d 1017 (Fed. Cir. 1994); *Hoover Group, Inc. v. Custom Metalcraft, Inc.*, 66 F.3d 399, 36 USPQ2d 1101 (Fed. Cir. 1995); *Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. v. Johnson & Johnson Orthopaedics, Inc.*, 976 F.2d 1559, 24 USPQ2d 1321 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Because Delnick does not disclose the particulate filler substantially comprising indefinite shape particles which have the shape of dendrites, grape clusters, or coral, the shape having a neck, as required by claim 1; and the indefinite-shape particles are polycrystalline particles comprising a plurality of single crystalline particles that are diffusion bonded to each other, and a neck is formed between at least a pair of the single crystalline



particles, the neck comprising the same material as the single crystalline particles as required by claim 16, Delnick does not anticipate claims 1 and 16.

Obviousness can be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge readily available to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Kotzab*, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000); *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). There is no suggestion in Delnick, Walls et al., and Koike to modify the Delnick batteries so that the particulate filler substantially comprises indefinite-shape particles which have the shape of dendrites, grape clusters, or coral, the shape having a neck, as required by claim 1; and the indefinite-shape particles are polycrystalline particles comprising a plurality of single crystalline particles that are diffusion bonded to each other, and a neck is formed between at least a pair of the single crystalline particles, the neck comprising the same material as the single crystalline particles, as required by claim 16.

The only teaching of the claimed secondary batteries is found in Applicants' disclosure. However, the teaching or suggestion to make a claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must not be based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Delnick. The Office Action considered it obvious that a lithium ion battery would comprise non-aqueous solvent and a lithium salt.

This rejection is traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested. Claim 8 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.



Claims 7 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Delnick in view of Waterhouse. The Office Action acknowledged that Delnick does not disclose the resin binder comprises a polyacrylic acid derivative. The Office Action relied on the Waterhouse teaching of acrylic acid as a binder in a separator to conclude that it would have been obvious to substitute acrylic acid as a binder into the separator of Delnick because the selection of a known material based on the suitability for its intended use is obvious.

This rejection is traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof respectfully requested. Claims 7 and 20 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 16, respectively, as Waterhouse does not cure the deficiencies of Delnick.

The dependent claims, including new claims 26 and 27, are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, and further distinguish the claimed secondary batteries. For example, the cited references do not suggest the indefinite-shape particle comprises a plurality of primary particles bonded to each other, and the indefinite-shape particle has a mean particle size that is twice or more than the mean particle size of the primary particles and not more than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , as required by claim 4. In addition, the cited references do not suggest that the metal oxide comprises alumina particles, as required by new claims 26 and 27.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.



**Application No.: 10/555,657**

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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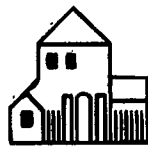
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1. being essential, indispensable, or requisite: a *necessary* part of the motor. 2. happening or existing by necessity: a *necessary* change in our plans. 3. acting or proceeding from compulsion or necessity; not free; involuntary: a *necessary* agent. 4. Logic. a. (of a proposition) such that a denial of it involves a self-contradiction. b. (of an inference or argument) such that its conclusion cannot be false if its supporting premises are true. c. (of a condition) such that it must exist if a given event is to occur or a given thing is to exist. Cf. *sufficient* (def. 2). —*n.* 5. something necessary, or requisite; necessity. 6. *necessaries*. Law. food, clothing, etc. required by a dependent or incompetent and varying with his or her social or economic position or that of the person upon whom he or she is dependent. 7. Chiefly New Eng. a privy or toilet. [1300-50; ME *necessarius* < L *necessarius* unavoidable, inevitable, needful, equiv. to *necess(e)* (neut. indeclinable adj.) unavoidable, necessary + *-arius* -ARY] —*nec/ess-ari-*ness, *n.* —*Syn.* 1. required, needed. 2. NECESSARY, ESSENTIAL, INDISPENSABLE, REQUISITE indicate something vital for the fulfillment of a need. NECESSARY applies to that without which a condition cannot be fulfilled or to an inevitable consequence of certain events, conditions, etc. Food is necessary to life. Multiplicity is a necessary result of division. INDISPENSABLE applies to something that cannot be done without or removed from the rest of a unitary condition: Food is indispensable to living things. He made himself indispensable as a companion. That which is ESSENTIAL forms a vitally necessary condition of something: Air is essential to red-blooded animals. It is essential to understand the matter clearly. REQUISITE applies to what is thought necessary to fill out, complete, or perfect something: She had all the requisite qualifications for a position. 5. requirement, requisite, essential. —*Ant.* 1. dispensable.

**nec/essary stool/**, close-stool. [1755-65]

**nec-ess-itar-i-an** (ne ses/i tär/ē an), *n.* 1. a person who advocates or supports necessitarianism (distinguished from *libertarian*). —*adj.* 2. pertaining to necessitarians or necessitarianism. Also, *necessarian*. [1790-1800; NECESSITY + *-arian*]

**nec-ess-itar-i-an-ism** (ne ses/i tär/ē ə niz/əm), *n.* the doctrine that all events, including acts of the will, are determined by antecedent causes; determinism. [1850-55; NECESSITARIAN + *-ism*]

**nec-ess-itate** (ne ses/i tāt/), *v.* —*tat-ed*, *-tat-ing*. 1. to make necessary or unavoidable: The breakdown of the car necessitated a change in our plans. 2. to compel, oblige, or force: The new wage demand will necessitate a price increase. [1620-30; < ML *necessitatus*, ptp. of *necessitare* to compel, constrain. See NECESSITY, *-ATE*] —*nec-ess-ita-tion*, *n.* —*nec-ess-ita-tive*, *adj.*

**nec-ess-itous** (ne ses/i tās/), *adj.* 1. destitute or impoverished; needy; indigent: to aid a *necessitous* young mother. 2. being essential or unavoidable: a *necessitous* discharge of responsibilities. 3. requiring immediate attention or action; urgent: the *necessitous* demands of the oil shortage. [1805-15; NECESSITY + *-ous*] —*nec-ess-itous-ly*, *adv.* —*nec-ess-itous-ness*, *n.*

**nec-ess-itude** (ne ses/i tōd/), *n.* Archaic. necessity. [1605-15; < L *necessitudo*, equiv. to *necessi-*, comb. form of *necessare* NECESSARY + *-itudo* -TUDINE]

**nec-ess-ity** (ne ses/i tē/), *n.* pl. *-ties*. 1. something necessary or indispensable: food, shelter, and other necessities of life. 2. the fact of being necessary or indispensable; indispensability: the necessity of adequate housing. 3. an imperative requirement or need for something: the necessity for a quick decision. 4. the state or fact of being necessary or inevitable: to face the necessity of testifying in court. 5. an unavoidable need or compulsion to do something: not by choice but by necessity. 6. a state of being in financial need; poverty: a family in dire necessity. 7. Philos. the quality of following inevitably from logical, physical, or moral laws. 8. of necessity, as an inevitable result; unavoidably; necessarily: Our trip to China must of necessity be postponed for a while. [1325-75; ME *necessite* < L *necessitas*, equiv. to *necess(e)* needful + *-itas* -ITY] —*Syn.* 3. demand. See *need*. 6. neediness, indigence, want.

**Ne-cho** (nē/kō), *n.* Prince of Sals and Prince of Memphis. fl. 633? B.C., chief of the Egyptian delta lords (father of Psamtik I). Also called *Necho* I.

**neck** (nek), *n.* 1. the part of the body of an animal or human being that connects the head and the trunk. 2. the part of a garment encircling, partly covering, or closest to the neck; neckline. 3. the length of the neck of a horse or other animal as a measure in racing. 4. the slender part near the top of a bottle, vase, or similar object. 5. any narrow, connecting, or projecting part suggesting the neck of an animal. 6. a narrow strip of land, as an isthmus or a cape. 7. a strait. 8. the longer and more slender part of a violin or similar stringed instrument, extending from the body to the head. 9. Building Trades. Much. the part on a shank of a bolt next to the head, esp. when it has a special form. 10. Anat. a narrowed part of a bone, organ, or the like. 11. Dentistry. the slightly narrowed region of a tooth between the crown and the root. 12. Print. beard (def. 5). 13. Arch. a cylindrical continuation of the shaft of a column above the lower astragal of the capital, as in the Roman Doric and Tuscan orders. 14. Also called *volcanic neck*. Geol. the solidified lava or igneous rock filling a conduit leading either to a vent of an extinct volcano or to a laccolith. 15. *be up to one's neck*. Informal. to have a surfeit; be overburdened: Right now she's up to her neck in work. 16. *break one's neck*. Informal. to make a great effort: We broke our necks to get there on

time. 17. *get it in the neck*. Slang. a. to suffer punishment or loss: The trend is to consolidation and small businesses are getting it in the neck. b. to be rejected or dismissed: The employees got it in the neck when the company moved overseas. c. to be sharply reprimanded or scolded. 18. *neck and neck*, even or very close; indeterminate as to the outcome: They were coming toward the finish line neck and neck. 19. *neck of the woods*. Informal. neighborhood, area, or vicinity: Next time you're in this neck of the woods, drop in. 20. *stick one's neck out*. Informal. to expose oneself to danger, disaster, failure, disgrace, etc.; take a risk: He stuck his neck out by supporting an unpopular candidate. 21. *win by a neck*. a. to win by a small amount or narrow margin. b. Racing. to be first by a head and neck; finish closely. —*v.* 22. Informal. (of two persons) to embrace, kiss, and caress one another amorously. —*v.* 23. Informal. to embrace, kiss, and caress (someone) amorously. 24. to strangle or behead. [bef. 900; ME *nekke*, OE *hnecca*, c. D *nek* nape of neck; akin to G *Nacken*, ON *hnakki* nape of neck] —*neck/er*, *n.* —*neck/less*, *adj.* —*neck/like*, *adj.*

**Neck-ar** (nek/ər; Ger. ne/ksän), *n.* a river in SW Germany; flowing N and NE from the Black Forest, then W to the Rhine River. 246 mi. (395 km) long.

**neck-band** (nek/band/), *n.* 1. a band of cloth at the neck of a garment. 2. a band, esp. one of ornamental design, worn around the neck, affixed to a bottle, etc. [1400-50; late ME *nekband*. See NECK, BAND]

**neck-cloth** (nek/klōth/, -klōth/), *n.* pl. *-cloths* (-klōths/, -klōthz/, -klōths/). Obs. cravat (def. 2). [1630-40; NECK + CLOTH]

**neck/ cord/**, lash/ (def. 7).

**necked** (nekkt), *adj.* having a neck of a kind specified (usually used in combination): a square-necked blouse. [1350-1400; ME. See NECK, -ED]

**Neck-er** (nek/ər; Fr. ne/ksər), *n.* Jacques (zhāk), 1732-1804, French statesman, born in Switzerland.

**neck-er-chief** (nek/ər chif/, -chēf/), *n.* a cloth or scarf worn round the neck. [1350-1400; ME. See NECK, KER-CHIEF]

**neck-ing** (nek/ing/), *n.* 1. Informal. the act of embracing, kissing, and caressing amorously; petting. 2. Arch. a. a molding or group of moldings between the projecting part of a capital of a column and the shaft. b. gorgierin. [1750-1800; NECK + -ING]

**neck-lace** (nek/لاس/), *n.* a piece of jewelry consisting of a string of stones, beads, jewels, or the like, or a chain of gold, silver, or other metal, for wearing around the neck. [1580-90; NECK + LACE (def. 2)]

**neck-let** (nek/let/), *n.* something worn around the neck for ornamentation, as a fur piece. [1860-65; NECK + -LET]

**neck-line** (nek/lin/), *n.* the opening at the neck of a garment, esp. of a woman's garment, with reference to its shape or its position on the body: a V-neckline; a high neckline. [1900-05; NECK + LINE]

**neck-piece** (nek/pēs/), *n.* a scarf, esp. one of fur. [1595-1605; NECK + PIECE]

**neck-rein** (nek/rēn/), *n.* 1. to guide or direct (a horse) with the pressure of a rein on the opposite side of the neck from the direction in which the rider wishes to travel. —*v.* 2. (of a horse) to respond to such pressure from a rein by going in the desired direction. [1925-30]

**neck/ sweet/bread**, sweetbread (def. 2).

**neck-tie** (nek/tē/), *n.* 1. a band of decorative fabric worn around the neck, under the collar, and tied in front to hang down the front of a shirt or to form a small bow. 2. any band, scarf, or tie fastened at the front of the neck. 3. Slang. a hangman's rope. [1830-40; NECK + TIE] —*neck/tie/less*, *adj.*

**neck/tie par/ty**, *Old Slang*. a lynching or other execution by hanging. [1830-40]

**neck-wear** (nek/wēr/), *n.* articles of dress worn round or at the neck. [1875-80; NECK + WEAR]

**necro-**, a combining form meaning "the dead," "corpse," "dead tissue," used in the formation of compound words: *necrology*. Also, esp. before a vowel, *necr-* (< Gk *nekros*). comb. form of *nekros* dead person, corpse, (adj.) dead

**nec-ro-bac-il-li-o-sis** (nek/rō bas/ə lō/sis), *n.* Vet. Pathol. any disease of cattle, horses, sheep, and swine marked by necrotic areas in which a bacillus, *Fusobacterium necrophorum*, is found. [1905-10; NECKRO- + BACILLOSIS] —**nec-ro-bac-il-lar-y** (nek/rō bas/ə ler/ē), *adj.*

**nec-ro-bi-o-sis** (nek/rō bi/ō/sis), *n.* Med. the death of cells or tissue caused by aging or disease. Cf. *necrosis*. [1875-80; NECKRO- + BIOSIS] —**nec-ro-bi-otic** (nek/rō bi/ōt/ik), *adj.*

**nec-ro-la-try** (ne krol/ē trē/), *n.* worship of the dead. [1820-30; NECKRO- + LATRY]

**nec-ro-lo-gy** (ne krol/ē jē/), *n.* pl. *-gies*. 1. a list of persons who have died within a certain time. 2. a notice of death; obituary. [1720-30; NECKRO- + LOGY] —**nec-ro-log-ical** (nek/rō lōj/ikəl), *adj.* —**nec-ro-log-ical-ly**, *adv.* —**nec-ro-lo-gist**, *n.*

**nec-ro-man-cy** (nek/rō man/əs/), *n.* 1. a method of divination through alleged communication with the dead; black art. 2. magic in general, esp. that practiced by a witch or sorcerer; sorcery; witchcraft; conjuration. [1250-1300; NECKRO- + MANCY; r. ME *nigromancie* < ML *nigromantia* for LL *nigromantia* < Gk *nekromanteia*; for folk etymology *nigro-* (comb. form of L *niger* black) was substituted in ML for original *necro-*] —**nec-ro-man-cer**, *n.* —**nec-ro-man-tic**; Obs. **nec-ro-man-ti-cal**, *adj.* —**nec-ro-man-ti-cal-ly**, *adv.* —*Syn.* 2. See *magic*.

**nec-ro-mi-me-sis** (nek/rō mī mē/sis), *n.* Psychiatry. a pathological state in which a person believes himself or herself to be dead. (NECKRO- + MIMESIS)

**nec-ro-phil-i-a** (nek/rō fil/ē ə), *n.* Psychiatry. an

erotic attraction to corpses. [1890-95; < NL; see NECKRO- + PHILIA] —**nec-ro-philic** (nek/rō fil/ik), *adj.* —**nec-ro-ph-ic** (nek/rō fil/ē ə), *adj.*

**necrophilism** (na krol/ē liz/əm, -nē/), *n.* Psychiatry. necrophilia. [1860-65; NECKRO- + -PHILISM]

**nec-ro-pho-bia** (nek/rō fō/bē ə), *n.* Psychiatry. 1. abnormal fear of death; thanatophobia. 2. an abnormal fear of dead bodies. [1825-35; < NL; see NECKRO- + PHOBIA] —**nec-ro-pho-bic**, *adj.*

**nec-ro-polis** (na krol/ē lis, -nē/), *n.* pl. *-lis-es*. 1. cemetery, esp. one of large size and usually of an ancient city. 2. a historic or prehistoric burial ground. [1820; < Gk *nekropolis* burial place (lit., city of the dead). See NECKRO-, -POLIS] —**nec-ro-pol-i-tan** (nek/rō pol/itn), *adj.*

**nec-ro-py** (nek/rōp sē/), *n.* pl. *-sies*. the examination of a body after death; autopsy. [1855-60; NECKRO- + -ORSY]

**nec-ro-sa-co-py** (na kros/ka pē, -nē/), *n.* pl. *-pies*, *n.* ropsy. [1835-45; NECKRO- + -SCOPY]

**nec-crose** (na krōs/, -nē/), *adj.* u.i. *-cros* —**cros-ing**. Pathol. to affect or be affected with necrosis [1870-75; back formation from NECROSIS]

**nec-cro-sis** (na krō/sis, -nē/), *n.* death of a circumscribed portion of animal or plant tissue. [1655-65; NL < Gk *nekrosis* mortification, state of death. See NECKRO-, -OSIS] —**nec-crotic** (na krōt/ik, -nē/), *adj.*

**nec-ro-tize** (nek/rō tiz/), *v.* —*-tized*, *-tiz-ing*. —*v.* to undergo necrosis. —*v.* t. to cause necrosis (as a gas, an organ, etc.). Also, esp. Brit., *nec-ro-tise/*. [1875; NECROTIC + -IZE]

**nec-ro-to-my** (na krol/ē mē, -nē/), *n.* pl. *-mies*. Surg. the excision of necrosed bone. 2. the dissection of dead bodies. [1895-1900; NECKRO- + -TOMY]

**nec-tar** (nek/tər), *n.* 1. the saccharine secretion of a plant, which attracts the insects or birds that pollinate the flower. 2. the juice of a fruit, esp. when not diluted or a blend of fruit juices: pear nectar; tropical nectar. Class. Myth. the life-giving drink of the gods. Cf. *ambrosia* (def. 1). 4. any delicious drink. [1545-55; < L *nectar*] —**nec-tar-like**, *adj.*

**nec-tar-e-ous** (nek/tär/ē əs/), *adj.* nectarous. Also **nec-tar-e-an**. [1700-10; < L *nectareus* of, belonging to nectar < Gk *nektáreos* like nectar; divinely fragrant. equiv. to *nektár* nectar + *-eos* adj. suffix; see *-eo-*] —**nec-tar-e-ous-ly**, *adv.* —**nec-tar-e-ous-ness**, *n.*

**nec-tar-if-er-ous** (nek/tər if/ər əs/), *adj.* Bot. producing nectar. [1750-60; NECTAR + *-i-* + *-ferous*]

**nec-tar-ine** (nek/tər ēn/, nek/tər ēn/), *n.* a variety of peach having a smooth, downless skin. [1610-20; NECTAR + -INE]

**nec-tar-ize** (nek/tər iz/), *v.* —*-tized*, *-tiz-ing*. to mix or saturate with nectar. Also, esp. Brit., *nec-tar-ize*. [1585-95; NECTAR + -IZE]

**nec-tar-ous** (nek/tər əs/), *adj.* 1. of the nature of, resembling nectar. 2. delicious or sweet. Also, **nectareous**, **nectarean**. [1660-70; NECTAR + -OUS]

**nec-tar-y** (nek/tər ē/), *n.* pl. *-ries*. 1. Bot. an organ part that secretes nectar. 2. Entomol. a cornicle (formerly thought to secrete honeydew). [1590-1600; < L *nectarium*. See NECTAR, -Y] —**nec-tar-y**, *adj.*

**nec-to-pod** (nek/tō pod/), *n.* (in certain mollusks) appendage modified for swimming. [1895-1900; < Gk *nekto-* swimming (equiv. to *nekhein* (ktin) to swim + *-pod* verbal adj. suffix, with *chi* to go) + *-pod*]

**Ned** (ned), *n.* a male given name, form of Edward.

**N.E.D.**, New English Dictionary. Also, **NED**

**Ned-da** (ned/ə), *n.* a female given name.

**ned-dy** (ned/ē), *n.* pl. *-dies*. 1. Brit. Informal. donkey. 2. Australian Slang. a horse. [1780-90; appar. gene use of personal name Neddy; see *Ned*, -Y]

**Neder-land** (nē/dax lānt/ for 1; nē/dər land/ for 2), *n.* 1. Dutch name of the Netherlands. 2. a city in Texas. 16,855.

**nee** (nā), *adj.* born (placed after the name of a married woman to introduce her maiden name): Madame Stael, nee Necker. Also, **née**. [1750-60; < F, fem. of (ptp. of *naitre* to be born) < L *natus* (see NATIVE)]

**need** (nēd), *n.* 1. a requirement, necessary duty, or obligation: There is no need for you to go there. 2. a lack of something wanted or deemed necessary: to fulfill the needs of the assignment. 3. urgent want, as of something requisite: He has no need of your charity. 4. a necessity arising from the circumstances of a situation: There is no need to worry. 5. a situation or time of difficulty; exigency: to help a friend in need; to be friend in need. 6. a condition marked by the lack of something requisite: the need for leadership. 7. destitution; extreme poverty: The family's need is acute. 8. *need be*, should the necessity arise: If need be, I can help the letters myself. —*v.* 9. to have need be, I can help the letters myself. —*v.* 10. to need, to have an obligation (as an auxiliary, typically in an interrogative or in a negative statement, and fol. by infinitive, in certain cases without to; in the 3d pers. sing. the form is *needs*; I needs be; He needs not go. 11. to be in need or want; to be necessary: There needs no apology. [bef. 900; ME *neede*, OE *nēd* (WSaxon *nied*), c. G. *Not*, ON *nau*, Goth *nauþs*; (v) ME *needen*, OE *neodian*, deriv. of *n*.] —*need/er*, *n.*

*Syn.* 2, 3. See *lack*. 3. requirement. 4. *Need*, *necessity* imply a want, a lack, or a demand, which must be filled. *Need*, a word of Old English origin, has connotations that make it strong in emotional appeal: the need to be appreciated. *Necessity*, a word of Latin origin, more formal and impersonal or objective; though much stronger than *need* in expressing urgency or imperative demand, it is less effective in appealing to the emotion. *Water* is a necessity for living things. 5. emergency. neediness, indigence, penury, privation. See *poverty*, want, lack. —*Ant.* 7. wealth.

**need-fire** (nēd/fīr/), *n.* 1. See *spontaneous fire*

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: < descended or borrowed from; > whence; b, blend of; blended; c, cognate with; cf., compare; derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r., replacing; s, stem; sp., spelling; spelled; resp., respelling; respelled; trans., translation; ? , origin unknown; \* , unattested; † , probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.